

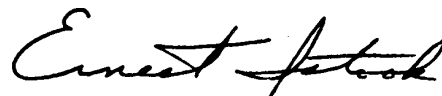
5400 N. Grand Blvd., Suite 505
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

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FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
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REPORT TO THE CITIZENS OF OKLAHOMA'S 5TH DISTRICT

CONGRESSMAN ERNEST ISTOOK

WWW.HOUSE.GOV/ISTOOK/

E-MAIL: ISTOOK@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV

FEBRUARY 2003

LET'S MEET TO DISCUSS OUR FUTURE!

Dear Fellow Oklahoman,

The challenges facing America are also great opportunities. As the President has reminded us, we control our own destiny. It is up to us to decide:

- How do we best deter terrorism and protect America?*
- How much will it cost, and how do we preserve our individual rights at the same time?*
- How will our children's future be affected by the return of deficit spending?*
- What does it take to improve our schools? To make health care more affordable?*
- To create more jobs?*
- Will we gain prosperity through more government spending? Or through lower taxes?*

Let's talk about these and other things on your mind. Please join me at one of these town hall meetings!



Monday, February 17th

1:00 PM
Langston OKC Campus
4205 N. Lincoln
Oklahoma City

Tuesday, February 18

11:00 AM
Warr Acres Community Center
4301 N. Ann Arbor
Warr Acres

Thursday, February 20

7:00 PM
Edmond City Council Chambers
1st & Littler
Edmond

Friday, February 21

7:00 PM
Capitol Hill High School
500 SW Grand Boulevard
Oklahoma City

Monday, February 24

10:00 AM
St. Gregory's University
Shawnee Community Room
Shawnee

Monday, February 24

1:00 PM
Kelly Haney Center
Lecture Hall
Seminole State College
Seminole

Monday, February 24

3:30 PM
Chamber of Commerce
Old Depot Station
101 West Park Street
Wewoka

Monday, March 3

1:00 PM
Baptist Retirement Center
9700 Mashburn Boulevard
Oklahoma City

**SEE INSIDE FOR OUR NEW
OFFICE LOCATIONS AND
INFORMATION!**



Huge Economic Boost for Northeast, Capitol Hill & Downtown OKC **Istook Spreads Word Of “Empowerment Zone”**

On the coldest day of this winter, Congressman Ernest Istook and Oklahoma City Councilwoman Willa Johnson went door-to-door to tell local businesses about huge new incentives to expand their businesses and to create jobs. They can save \$3,000 per worker who lives and works in the “Empowerment Zone”.

The OKC Empowerment Zone includes 20 square miles and covers areas surrounding downtown Oklahoma City, stretching from NE 36th and Martin Luther King Avenue down to SW 29th Street and Portland Avenue. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development designated the area as an empowerment zone last year, making businesses in the area eligible to claim up to \$3,000 per worker in tax credits for employees who also live in the area, as well as other tax credits and incentives.



Cong. Istook and Councilwoman Johnson do live interview with KVPS radio to let listeners know about empowerment zone benefits (above)



Cong. Istook and Councilwoman Johnson brave chilling weather to inform local business owners of tax credits and other incentives (pictured left)

For further details about the empowerment zone contact:
Carl Friend - City of OKC - 405-297-2574
Sarah Stuck - Office of Congressman Istook - 405-942-3636
On the web: www.okc-cityhall.org/empowerment_zone/index.tml

Istook Secures Handheld Computers for Oklahoma Students

Over 1,000 Oklahoma students so far now have round-the-clock access to hand-held computers, thanks Congressman Ernest Istook's efforts—a program he is working to expand.

“Oklahoma is taking a unique lead using this technology,” said Istook. “It better prepares our students for the high-paying jobs of tomorrow and will help attract those jobs to Oklahoma.”

The hand-held computers are part of a federally-funded 3-year pilot program during which researchers from Oklahoma State University will measure the effectiveness of unlimited one-on-one computer access in raising test scores and improving student attitudes toward learning. As a part of the grant, the University of Central Oklahoma will help train teachers on how to incorporate hand-helds into their curriculum.

“It's not just the advantage of size. Students today share computers, having only occasional access to a desktop machine. These small, inexpensive portables let students use them 24-by-7, because each student has their own. They learn more, and more rapidly, about using computers as a personal tool. To them, it becomes as simple as using pencil and paper, and that gives their futures a huge boost,” said Istook.

Istook Chosen to Head Transportation Panel

Congressman Ernest Istook will now chair the subcommittee responsible for oversight and funding of America's transportation systems, in a major expansion of his appropriations subcommittee.

In addition to the new jurisdiction over the U.S. Department of Transportation (including roads, highways, bridges, airports, and rail), Istook will retain jurisdiction over the Treasury Department, the White House, and many other core agencies of the executive branch. The change will triple the spending authority under Istook's chairmanship, raising it to about \$70-billion a year.



The change results from a reorganization of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, to adjust to the new Department of Homeland Security.

"This is exciting news not only for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, but for all of Oklahoma," said Gary Ridley, director of ODOT. **"To have Congressman Istook elevated to such a high post will greatly impact not only our transportation needs, but the economic development that comes with good transportation funding."**

"I couldn't be more thrilled," said Istook. **"Transportation faces plenty of challenges across America and certainly in Oklahoma, and I hope to bring some common-sense help. I'm grateful for the trust placed in me."**

Victor Bird, director of the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission, said, **"This, coupled with Senator Inhofe's chairmanship, couldn't be better for Oklahoma. It's a 1-2 punch. Even though we've been doing well in recent years, Oklahoma is still a donor state, especially on the airport side. Congressman Istook's chairmanship is very important for all transportation in Oklahoma including highways, roads, bridges, waterways, rail, and airports."**



TO CONTACT CONGRESSMAN ISTOOK

*Please send **ALL** mail **ONLY** to OKC office:*

*5400 N. Grand Boulevard, Suite 505
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
(405) 942-3636
Fax: (405) 942-3792*

EFFECTIVE MARCH 15, THE OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE WILL MOVE TO:

*First National Center
120 N. Robinson, Ste 100
Oklahoma City, OK 73102*

Shawnee

*(opening soon)
23 East 9th, Suite 301
Shawnee, OK 74801
(405) 273-6202*

Seminole

*(opening soon)
211 East Broadway
Seminole, OK 74868
(405) 303-2868*

Send **ALL** mail **ONLY** to OKC office. Send e-mail to: **istook@mail.house.gov**
On the web: **www.house.gov/istook** for news, Congressman Istook's initiatives, and more!

Watch your local newspaper for our open house!

Post Office
will not
deliver
without
stamp

Congressman Ernest J. Istook, Jr.
5400 N. Grand Boulevard, Suite 505
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

To mail, fold this side out
No envelope needed

Your Opinion Counts . . . Please Return This Questionnaire Today!

Please circle Y, N, or U (Y=Yes, N=No, U=Undecided).
Two household members can use the same survey.

FIRST PERSON SECOND PERSON
(Y=Yes, N=No, U=Undecided)

1.) Does more spending for defense and homeland security justify deficit spending?

Y N U

Y N U

2.) Do you support a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution to guarantee that we return to a balanced budget during normal times?

Y N U

Y N U

3.) Do you believe America should use our military to remove Saddam Hussein from ruling Iraq?

Y N U

Y N U

4.) Which is most important to you: (please check one)

☐ A. Balancing the budget

☐ B. Reducing taxes

☐ C. More spending for _____

5.) Which is more important to you: (please check one)

☐ A. Expanding Medicare to pay for prescription drugs?

☐ B. Stabilizing Medicare so it won't go bankrupt & can keep its existing commitments?

Your ideas and comments:
